



The CIAC Paddle

Helping You Navigate the IA Continuum

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Navy IA Sailor Top Focus Area #8 Awards

Each branch of service awards in-theatre medals based on different criteria and therefore military members from different services are likely to receive different medals for the same work. CIACs should emphasize this point with the IA Sailors in order to manage their expectations.

Boots-On-Ground

Typical Areas of Concern

a) Awards systems

- Army awards are more of an automatic process, given by mission and location (varies by rank and time in theater), vice specific actions.
- The Army frequently gives higher level awards than the Navy gives for the same level of responsibility and authority.
- The Army gives combat service awards for being in a combat zone while the Navy requires a significant risk of hostile action.

a) Bronze Star Medal

- The Navy requires meritorious service in a combat zone of the level equivalent to the Navy Meritorious Service Medal and requires personal exposure to hostile action. Per Director, Navy Staff memo dated 2 Mar 2007, "our Awards must also give credit to those who are exposed to significant risk of hostile action."
- The Army requires meritorious service in a combat zone of the level equivalent to the Army Meritorious Service Medal. However, there is not a specific requirement for personal exposure to hostile action.

b) Joint Service Awards

- IA Sailors permanently assigned to joint activities are eligible. Ad hoc Navy units are generally not eligible. Under "most unusual circumstances", service members on temporary duty to a joint activity may merit a joint award.

c) Navy concurrence

- Concurrence is the policy and process each service uses to acknowledge the award nomination from another service and agree to the appropriateness and presentation of that award.
- It is required for awards higher than a Navy Commendation Medal. The Navy acknowledges an award nomination from another service and makes a determination on the appropriateness of the award.
- Concurrence is designed to "ensure the integrity" of current Navy awards with historical award standards. To "ensure the integrity" of an award means to protect its value or prestige by maintaining standards over time.

- d) For questions or more information visit the [Navy Awards](#) website and review the [FAQs About Awards from IA Sailors](#).***